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Message Text

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21
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-03 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 AGR-20 HEW-08 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OIC-04 IGA-02 DRC-01

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R 100400Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7450
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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DEPT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJ: NARCOTICS - POPPY PRODUCTION IN HELMAND VALLEY

1. WHILE VISITING HELMAND ARGHANDAB VALLEY FROM MARCH 28-30, 1974 AMBASSADOR HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE WITH BOTH DR. NASIR KESHAWARZ, PRESIDENT HELMAND ARGHANDAB VALLEY AUTHORITY AND GOVERNOR FAZIL RABI PASHWAK CONTINUED US GOVERNMENT CONCERN OVER OPIUM POPPY PRODUCTION IN VALLEY.

2. DURING PRIVATE MEETING BEFORE GENERAL MEETING ON MARCH 28 AT HAVA HEADQUARTERS, LASHKAR GAH, AMBASSADOR TOLD DR. KESHAWARZ THAT FUTURE US SUPPORT FOR VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COULD
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NOT BE ASSURED IF OPIUM POPPIES CONTINUED TO BE GROWN IN VALLEY.

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DR. KESHAWARZ RESPONDED THAT HE HAD ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO PREVENT POPPY CULTIVATION IN PROJECT AREA. AT GENERAL MEETING DR. KESHAWARZ ASSERTED THAT PLANTING OF OPIUM POPPY ON PROJECT LAND HAS BEEN PREVENTED THIS YEAR AND THAT HIS STAFF, UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO REPORT ANY CULTIVATION - ON OR OFF PROJECT - ARE TRYING TO SUPPRESS ALL POPPY CULTIVATION IN AREA.

3. ON SAME DAY, AMBASSADOR ALSO EXPRESSED TO GOVERNOR PAZHWAK U.S. CONGRESS' CONTINUING CONCERN OVER OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION IN VALLEY. GOVERNOR PAZHWAK REPLIED THAT AS OPIUM FARMERS ARE POOR, AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF INCOME IS NECESSARY. WHILE INSTRUCTIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT TO LOCAL GOVERNORS TO SUPPRESS PLANTING OF OPIUM POPPY, GOVERNOR STRESSED THAT ONLY TALKS AT HIGHEST LEVEL COULD RESULT IN DEFINITIVE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM.

4. ON MARCH 31, AMBASSADOR GAVE PRESIDENT DAOUD A PAPER ON THE HELMAND-ARGHANDAB VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (COPY POUCHED NEA/PAB) WHICH SUMMARIZED THE FOREGOING EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND KESHAWARZ.

5. COMMENT: KESHAWARZ' AND PAZHWAK'S STATEMENTS ARE FIRMEST WE HAVE HEARD TO EFFECT THAT GOA HAS ACTED TO RESTRICT, POSSIBLY SUPPRESS, OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION IN HELMAN AREA. SINCE BLOOMING SEASON IS CLOSE AT HAND, WE SHALL SOON BE ABLE CHECK EFFECTIVENESS THEIR STATED EFFORTS TO PREVENT THIS YEAR'S CROP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, OPIUM, FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KABUL02121
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740081-1146
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740452/aaaabviy.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS - POPPY PRODUCTION IN HELMAND VALLEY
TAGS: SNAR, AF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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